

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENNA 03532 021742Z

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C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 3532

NODIS

FOR EUR: WARREN ZIMMERMANN

TO 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (MONDALE, WALTER F.), AU

SUBJ: VICE PRESIDENT'S TRIP TO VIENNA: KREISKY VIEWS ON PORTUGAL
AND SPAIN

REF: STATE 098382

1. CHANCELLOR KREISKY, THROUGH HIS GOVERNMENT, THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL AND HIS RELATIONS WITH EUROPEAN SOCIALIST LEADERS, TOOK AN EARLY AND PUBLIC LEAD IN PROMOTING DEMOCRATIC DEVELOPMENTS IN PORTUGAL AND SPAIN. EARLIER, AUSTRIA WAS ASSOCIATED WITH PORTUGAL IN EFTA AND MAINTAINED CORRECT RELATIONS WITH SPAIN EVEN WHEN THIS WAS QUITE OUT OF FASHION AMONG EUROPEAN SOCIALISTS. KREISKY CONSISTENTLY SUPPORTED LIBERALIZATION OF IBERIAN REGIMES, AND WHEN THOSE REGIMES CHANGED HE PLAYED A MAJOR ROLE IN ORGANIZING PUBLIC AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT IN EUROPE FOR DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST PARTIES. HE SUPPORTED ENTRY OF PORTUGAL INTO COUNCIL OF EUROPE AND HAS INDICATED HIS EXPECTATION THAT SPAIN WILL SOON QUALIFY FOR MEMBERSHIP. KREISKY ALSO HAS SUPPORTED EFFORTS TO HELP PORTUGAL AND SPAIN ECONOMICALLY AND INTEGRATE THEM BETTER INTO EUROPE.

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PAGE 02 VIENNA 03532 021742Z

2. ON PORTUGAL, KREISKY WAS QUICK TO SPEAK OUT AGAINST COMMUNIST MACHINATIONS. IN APRIL 1975 HE DECLARED THAT EVENTS IN PORTUGAL WOULD BE A TEST OF DETENTE, AND THAT AUSTRIA, TOO, WOULD HAVE TO RECONSIDER ITS INTERNATIONAL POSITION. (I.E. NEUTRALITY), IF COMMUNISTS FAILED TO ACT IN WESTERN EUROPE ACCORDING TO DEMOCRATIC RULES. HE AND OTHER AUSTRIAN SOCIALISTS, BOTH PRIVATELY AND PUBLICLY,

EXPRESSED MORE OPTIMISM THAN MOST OTHER EUROPEANS AT THAT TIME ABOUT DEMOCRATIC PROSPECTS IN PORTUGAL. KREISKY HAS MAINTAINED SIMILAR ATTITUDES TOWARD SITUATION IN SPAIN, AND HAS PROMOTED NUMEROUS OFFICIAL AND PRIVATE VISITS WITH BOTH PORTUGAL AND SPAIN.

3. IN SUM, KREISKY FEELS THAT POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN PORTUGAL AND SPAIN IN LAST TWO YEARS HAVE BEEN ENCOURAGING, AND AUSTRIA, AS IN RECENT PAST, IS PREPARED TO ASSIST MODESTLY THROUGH BOTH GOVERNMENT AND PARTY CHANNELS IN FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF DEMOCRATIC FORCES.MEEHAN

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